



# Doolally for

Famous for playing the pilled up, boozing bitch Karen on *Will & Grace*, **Megan Mullally** is coming to the West End with her band, Supreme Music Program. Ahead of her London debut **Joseph Cattell** spoke to the comic queen about Jessica Fletcher and dinner with Madonna.

**You live in L.A.'s gay village, West Hollywood. How do you deal with the attention from the gays?**

I don't notice it that much because in LA you are always in your car! Sometimes at the movies or out and about, but really it's not an issue ever.

**And now you're coming to the West End with your band, Supreme Music Program. What's it like being a front woman?**

I've had the band for a long time, for about 12 years, and it's very much a group endeavour. I don't feel like the front woman at all. I pick the material but other than that it's a joint venture.

**For people who haven't heard you sing, describe your style.**

The band is very eclectic and I would say that includes me too – it forces me to be very versatile with my singing style because what we perform is from all different genres.

**Do you channel any singers when you're on stage?**

Not really because all the songs are actually story songs, so a lot of them are sung by a character almost. That's why I never change the gender in any song – it's more about the song and the songwriter not about me, so I try to keep the song as pure I can.

**Do you talk much between songs? You better had!**

I do. I will be talking – it's not planned, and it will be light, just joking around extemporaneously.

**Did you and Sean Hayes find that being supporting actors on *Will & Grace* meant you could be a bit more wild?**

Yes, Sean and I were definitely like the kids and Eric and Deborah [who played Will and Grace] were like the parents. We actually referred to them as mom and dad. In interviews we were completely irresponsible – they had to shoulder the burden of actually doing the interviews.

**Madonna had a cameo on *Will & Grace*. Were you nervous meeting her?**

I wouldn't say I was nervous. She did something really nice though – she had me and my manager over for dinner a week or two before we started, which was lovely. She was great the whole week: she was super professional, always wanted to rehearse and worked her ass off. She's a really cool person and very serious about her family and her spiritual life.

**Which is the better buzz – performing music live on stage or acting live TV?**

They're two totally different things. There's something real about performing with the band. It's very pure, nobody is looking over our shoulders and we do it for ourselves. Live in front of an audience for TV is much more like theatre. There's more structure compared to a pre-recorded show and you have to remember your lines!

**Do you think *Will & Grace* improved America's attitude to gay people?**

I've certainly gotten a lot of mail from fans about the fact that they didn't know how to come out to their family and were able to once they watched *Will & Grace*. It was the first show with two gay characters as a part of the principal cast. There was a gay character Billy Crystal played on 'Soap' I think in the 80s, but we were the first since then. Now every single show has at least one gay character it seems. I also think because *Will & Grace* never politicised the issue, it made it more of an incidental subject. It was just a funny show about two people, their lives and their friends. That allowed a wider variety of people to enjoy the show, whereas when *Ellen* came out it was very political.

# Mullally

**How is *Karen: The Musical* coming along? It's sounds amazing.**

It's coming along. We are still looking for our last book writer. As soon as we have that we can start talking about story. Everybody is very excited, and we really want to find someone soon because we have a lot of momentum right now.

**What's the most over-the-top celebrity moment you've ever experienced?**

There have been a lot of silly moments. Once I was waiting for a car after a Golden Globe party in a dark area with an awning and I realised it was just me and Mick Jagger standing there, so I stood thinking: 'That's Mick Jagger!' Also, when I won an Emmy I was backstage and Helen Mirren accosted me and said: 'You are so funny, you're hilarious!' At that time I felt, 'How could she have seen *Will & Grace*'?

**You were in *Murder, She Wrote* once. How was working with Angela Lansbury?**

I actually overslept on the first day of shooting – that's the only time that's ever happened to me. The call time was like 5:45am, I scrambled around and got there an hour and half late and she was a little miffed! But after the first scene I think she thought I was a decent actress and she was very nice and lovely.

**Megan & Supreme Music Program will be performing from Tuesday (16 Feb) to Sunday (21 Feb) at the Vaudeville Theatre, 404 Strand, WC2. [www.meganinlondon.com](http://www.meganinlondon.com).**

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